

opening, said carrying handle having an elongated <sup>64</sup> strap having a first end <sup>64</sup> and a second end, <sup>70</sup> said first end being operatively connected to said exterior surface of said outer member, said second end terminating in a connecting <sup>74</sup> member, and a strap <sup>74</sup> member <sup>40</sup> having a mounting end and cooperating connecting member, <sup>74</sup> said mounting end being operatively mounted on the exterior surface and said cooperating connecting member interacting with <sup>74</sup> said connecting member <sup>74</sup> forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member and said cooperating connecting member are moveable relative to each other; and

a fastening member located within said opening and extending in a selected direction on said outer member wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said carrying handle, said carrying handle being positioned to refrain from interfering with the inserting and removing of a ball from said outer member defining the bag.

2. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a round ball.

3. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a basketball.

4. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in

the shape of a baseball.

5. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a soccer ball.

6. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a football.

7. The bag of claim 7 further comprising at least one outer pocket positioned on the exterior surface of said outer member at a location other than the opening and having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said one outer pocket.

8. The bag of claim 1 wherein said one outer pocket is formed of a solid fabric.

9. The bag of claim 7 wherein said one outer pocket is formed of a mesh fabric.

10. The bag of claim 7 wherein said one outer pocket includes an interior cavity and said entryway communicates with and provides access to said interior cavity.

11. The bag of claim 7 wherein said entryway includes a zipper which has an open position and a closed position, said zipper when in an open position affording access to the interior cavity of said one outer pocket.

*B Sub 47*

12. The bag of claim 7 further comprising a flap operatively connected to at least one of said entryway and said exterior surface of the outer member, said flap having an open position and a closed position, said flap when in an open position affording access through said entryway to the interior cavity of said one outer pocket.

*B Sub 5*

13. The bag of claim 7 wherein said outer pocket includes a second fastening member which cooperates with a mating member located on at least one of a flap and exterior surface of the outer member.

*B Sub 7*

14. The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member and said mating member are mating elements defining a hook and loop fastener.

*B Sub 11*

15. The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member is at least one of a button and a button hole and said mating member is the other of said at least one of a button and a button hole.

*B Sub 11*

16. The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member is at least one of a rotatable fastener and an aperture for receiving a rotatable fastener and said mating member is the other of said at least one of a rotatable fastener and an aperture for receiving a rotatable fastener.

*B Sub 11*

17. The bag of claim 9 wherein said mesh fabric is formed of an elastic material.

*B Sub 11*

18. (Twice Amended) A bag for holding a ball comprising an outer member having an interior and an exterior surface configured in the shape of a ball and defining an inner enclosed space, said exterior surface including an opening formed therein in a selected direction and in communication with said inner

enclosed space for affording the insertion and removal of ball  
therefrom;

a carrying handle having a first end and a second end  
operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer  
member at a location other than the opening;

a fastening member having an open and a closed position,  
said fastening member being operatively connected to said  
opening wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a  
direction substantially perpendicular to said first end and said  
second end of the carrying handle and being adapted to make said  
opening an unsecured opening when said fastening member is in  
the open position and adapted to make said opening a secured  
opening when said fastening member is in a closed position; and

at least one outer pocket configured to be expanded to  
receive an article positioned on and protruding outwardly from  
the exterior surface of said outer member at a location other  
than the opening and having an entryway enabling the insertion  
and removal of an article from said one outer pocket.

19. The bag of claim 18 having at least two outer pockets positioned  
on said exterior surface of the outer member and protruding outwardly at a  
location other than said opening and spaced from said carrying handle, said

at least one outer pocket having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said at least one outer pocket independent of a ball being located in said inner enclosed space.

20. The bag of claim 18 wherein said carrying handle is positioned at least substantially perpendicular to at least a portion of said opening.

21. (Amended) A bag for holding a ball comprising a outer member having an interior and an exterior surface configured in the shape of a ball and defining an inner enclosed space, said exterior surface including an opening formed therein in a selected direction and in communication with said inner enclosed space for affording the insertion and removal of ball from said outer member;

a carrying handle having a first end and a second end operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle being operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle having an elongated strap having a first end and a second end, said first end being operatively connected to said exterior surface of said outer member, said second end terminating in a connecting member, and a loop member having a

mounting end and cooperating connecting member, said mounting end being operatively mounted on the exterior surface and said cooperating connecting member interacting with said connecting member forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member and said cooperating connecting member are moveable relative to each other;

2. a fastening member having an open and a closed position, said fastening member being operatively connected to said opening wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first end and said second end of the carrying handle and being adapted to make said opening an unsecured opening when said fastening member is in the open position and adapted to make said opening a secured opening when said fastening member is in a closed position and at least one outer pocket positioned on and protruding outwardly from the exterior surface of said outer member at a location other than the opening and having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said one outer pocket.

22. The bag of claim 21 having at least two outer pockets positioned on said exterior surface of the outer member and protruding outwardly at a location other than said opening and spaced from said carrying handle, said